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NEWS-LETTER
OF
THE
OFFICE OF CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT
INVESTIGATIONS.

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As stated in the first, or April number of the News-Letter, its object is to bring the continually increasing number of people engaged in cereal and forage insect investigations into closer touch with one another and to keep the individual informed, in a general way, of what is being done by the combined force. Thus the reason for the existence of the News-Letter is to combine and solidify the division, for it is upon this that the successful carrying out of so many diverse investigations must largely rest.

In the beginning applied entomology consisted merely in the treatment of garden plants with soot, ashes, lime, or perhaps white hellebore, affording relief only to the gardener. The spread of the Colorado potato beetle eastward from the West probably did much to bring to the front the application of Paris green as an insecticide, but still its use was confined largely to the truck farmer and gardener. To the grower of grains and forage crops all of this afforded no relief whatever. Still later, the work on the cotton worm of the South brought into practical use the preparation and application of kerosene emulsion. Still the grower of grains and grasses found no relief. A little later began the spraying of trees and shrubs, which, while it opened up an almost new era for the fruit grower, still left the ordinary farmer with his problems of insect control practically unsolved.

Before the advent of experiment stations and even for some time afterward, letters addressed to the members of university faculties complaining of the ravages of insects and asking relief brought the actual farmer little consolation. The replies he received to his appeals for relief were usually couched in terms to which he was unused and much of the text of these replies in a language that he did not understand. Moreover, the replies were usually penned by men who had little or no practical knowledge of agriculture, and thus there grew up between the two not only a continually widening breach but in many cases an absolutely intolerant feeling on the part of each for the other.

Perhaps nothing better illustrates the changed condition and rapid growth of agriculture as a science than the immense strides made by economic entomology as applied over and throughout the broad acres of the ordinary farmer. At the present time, instead of receiving a stereotyped reply to his applications for relief, when he applies as an individual, or for his neighborhood, to the Department of Agriculture, either directly, or, as is becoming every day more and more frequent, through his Representative in Congress, he is very often surprised when, within two or three days after the receipt of his complaint, there appears in his neighbor-









